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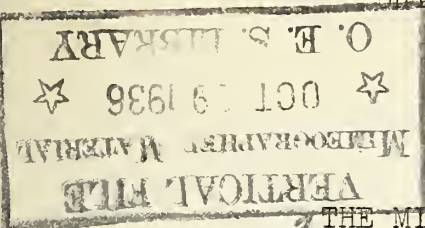
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THE MISSOURI PROGRAM FOR QUALITY HAY PRODUCTION.

By Dr. Ide P. Trotter, Extension Specialist in Field Crops
College of Agriculture, University of Missouri

In connection with the Clover and Prosperity Conferences being held in all the 114 counties of Missouri this year, emphasis is being placed on quality in hay and the methods most practical under Missouri conditions for the production of higher quality hay primarily for home or local consumption. This work was planned and undertaken following a conference with E. O. Pollock, Extension Hay Specialist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, in which representatives of the soils, field crops, animal husbandry, dairy husbandry, and soil conservation departments participated. The extension representatives of these departments are actively carrying this work to the farmers in the field.

Plan of Operation

In each county in the State, this program is organized in such a way as to invite in to an all-day conference some 100 to 150 picked school district leaders interested in legume production, pasture production, livestock production, and soil conservation. At each of these county meetings, two of the eight extension specialists participating in this program are to be present, one to represent departments interested in the production of legumes, sod crops, and pastures, and the other interested in the proper utilization of the material produced, in order to produce efficient production of livestock or livestock products. In general, the morning program is devoted to a discussion of the principles and practices involved in the most economic and successful production program for their pasture and hay crops. This is reinforced by the reports of local demonstrators who have carried through to completion one or more phases of the program under discussion.

During this morning discussion, a number of Government hay standards are on display, which have been selected as applicable to the general type of hay crops most satisfactorily produced in the particular county. When the discussion reaches the point of emphasizing hay production from legume crops particularly, the appropriate hay samples are presented to the group and the factors involved in hay production briefly discussed. Emphasis is placed on the variations in hay quality, which are obtained from proper, as contrasted with improper, methods of hay production or conditions during hay producing times. Especial emphasis is placed on the greater probability of producing leafy hay, which can be cured, so as to retain its green color, when the hay production is conducted during mid-summer. It is also emphasized that in the rotation systems recommended

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for Missouri conditions, this midsummer hay production likewise fits most perfectly into the succession of crops necessary for the completion of the whole program.

In the afternoon session, the livestock specialist discusses the proper feeding and management of the livestock on the farm, including both work stock and all classes of livestock produced for the marketing of meat, milk, mutton, or wool, and, in this discussion, he emphasizes particularly the importance of having in the ration ample quantities of high-quality hays, such as have been discussed in the morning program. The palatability, protein and vitamin content, and other characteristics of these hays, which are beneficial in economic livestock production, are clearly emphasized and illustrated by reference to the appropriate hay samples displayed before the group. It is further stated that by a proper coordination of their hay production and hay utilization programs, in line with the discussions of the day, it becomes possible for the livestock producer to sharply curtail the expense involved in the purchase of concentrated protein feed, thereby increasing his chances for profit in the livestock production.

Up to date (January 13, 1936), we have carried this program into approximately half of the 114 counties in the State of Missouri. Twelve additional counties will be reached each week until all have been covered. The attendance and interest thus far manifested by the farmers have been exceedingly good and somewhat above expectations. Also, the farmers present have shown a marked interest in the hay samples and the factors in hay production and livestock feeding which they illustrate and emphasize. We are, therefore, highly pleased with the program up to date and anticipate considerable improvement in the quality of the hay produced in Missouri during 1936, as a result of this large scale educational program.



